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News Release

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KIUC infrastructure vandalized; KPD seeking public assistance in ongoing investigation

WAILUA - The Kaua'i Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying anyone who may have been involved in vandalizing Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's (KIUC) water diversion site on the North Fork of the Wailua River.

On October 18, a KIUC contractor discovered severe damage that occurred to its infrastructure. Police believe that sometime between October 11 to October 18, suspects used concrete cutting equipment to destroy part of a concrete diversion, interrupting water flow to a ditch that feeds two of KIUC's hydro generators. Concrete debris was allowed to fall into the stream and exposed rebar and metal cables were left by the perpetrators, creating a safety hazard at a recreation site used by the public.

"This incident was a deliberate sabotage of Kaua'i's electrical infrastructure," said KIUC's Chief Executive Officer David Bissell. "We are working with KPD, the FBI and the community to identify and arrest the perpetrators."

KIUC holds a state permit which allows the utility to divert water to generate renewable hydroelectric power for its customers. The water then flows back into the stream below the hydro generators. Downstream users include taro, flower, vegetable and fruit farmers, as well as cattle ranchers.

KIUC adds that as a cooperative, members and ratepayers will bear the cost associated with damage, restoration and loss of energy production. Officials continue to assess the cost to repair the damage.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call Police Dispatch at 241-1711, or Det. Damien McCallum, 241-1693. Those wishing to remain anonymous can call CrimeStoppers at 246-8300.



Above Photo: On October 18, KIUC employees discovered damage to its water diversion site on the North Fork of Wailua River, interrupting water flow to two of KIUC's hydro generators.



Photo, above left: Perpetrators left behind exposed rebar and metal cables, creating a safety hazard at a recreation site used by the public.



Photo, above right: Heavy concrete cutting equipment was used to destroy part of a concrete diversion, interrupting water flow to a ditch that feeds two of KIUC's hydro generators.

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